

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

No. 716

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THREEPENCE

PEACE ISSUE IN NEW PARLIAMENT

World food distribution the vital need

PARLIAMENT opened with some forcible speeches on the international situation in the King's Speech debate. The pacifist MP for North Ealing, James Hudson, said the time had come to start again from the beginning with the question of East-West tension and a new approach to Russia.

He deplored some members' faith in the "usual channels." Had we stuck to the usual channels in regard to India, that country would still be in the same old situation from which it had been raised.

In the situation represented by the H-bomb, the most unusual channels would have to be tried if we were to consider the fate which lay in store for these islands.

The Prime Minister had said that in the settlement of this difficulty what was wanted was good will.

Personal approach needed

He would ask—what is good will? It would certainly not be created by the "usual channels." How could we procure good will except finally by a personal approach. Ultimately—and especially with a great totalitarian nation centred in one personality—it was necessary to encounter that personality.

He did not exonerate Russia from responsibility, but, as the old mechanical law stated, action and reaction were equal and opposite; and our past treatment of Russia had helped to make her the intransigent nation she had proved to be.

Where's Churchill's proposal?

Referring to Churchill's election demand for a top-level personal approach to Russia, he asked why there had been no reference to it since.

At Edinburgh Mr. Churchill had raised it as a prime issue, which was said to have "resounded through the world."

Yet now the election was over it had been dropped, and Mr. Churchill had not even mentioned it in that debate.

Instead, we had Conservatives coming to the House and talking about the utter untrustworthiness and treachery of the Russians, after their leader had proposed that we go and put our arms round the neck of the arch criminal himself. Was that proposal after all only a matter of winning votes?

As for the situation of the East and the threat of Communism, James Hudson

reminded them that it was the war, and past neglect of poverty and injustice, which had created that situation.

The only policy in the world, whether for China, Europe or Africa, was a policy based on an effort to build up economic conditions which would give these people a worthwhile existence and so remove the need for their attempts to settle their difficulties by war.

Government's greatest achievement

Fenner Brockway, new MP for Eton and Slough, said that if he were asked what was the greatest achievement of the Government since the war he would say it was the recognition of the right of the people of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon to their political freedom.

He shrank from thinking of what would have been the situation today if that freedom had been denied, and of what military forces would now have been necessary in those countries.

If they had no other reason for being grateful for having had a Labour Government, that great act of emancipation would have justified it.

He now wanted that policy produced a stage further, to the West Indies, the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

Poverty and Peace—one problem

Referring to the world economic difficulties and their relation to political conflict, Fenner Brockway said that while in America there were warehouses and silos bulging with unsaleable food, in other countries there was widespread starvation.

There was no absence of wealth in the world, or of labour. If they could apply to the world the same principles of economic planning that have been applied in this country for the last 4½ years, the world's problem of poverty could be solved.

As Maxton used to say—if you solved the problem of poverty you solved the problem of peace.

Labour's true destiny

In regard to the H-bomb and East-West tension, the Prime Minister had said little could be done until there was the will for peace.

But there was already that will to peace among the peoples. The problem was not that of the will of the peoples but of the action of governments.

He thought the highest destiny of the Labour movement was to bring harmony into the world, and he believed that if in this country they gave the world an example of social justice with liberty, the influence of that example could not fail to penetrate the iron curtain.

'WELL, WE'VE SAVED THE WORLD FROM COMMUNISM, ANYWAY!'



Vicar's "solemn fast" call against H-Bomb

STRIKE-ACTION APPEAL TO CHRISTIANS

A CALL for nation-wide strike action, coupled with a "solemn fast," if a demand for the formation of a national committee to negotiate with Russia and USA on the H-bomb is not met by March 26—Passion Sunday—has been made by the Rev. Robert S. S. Waterson, Vicar of St. Augustine's with St. Andrew, Bexhill, Sussex.

"I would like to see five Christians in every parish throughout Britain take action," he told Peace News, on Tuesday. He set a time limit for the setting up of the committee—March 26.

In his call, made through the local Press and taken up by several national newspapers, he said the appeal by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the World Council of Churches for a new effort to avert the danger of world catastrophe must be followed up by united action.

The strike and fast would be drastic and would threaten production, he added. But that was not as serious as the hydrogen bomb threat.

"Christian action" needed

He has already received support in a cable from Rev. A. J. Muste, Secretary American Fellowship of Reconciliation, who, as reported in a letter on page six, is joining in a fast organised by a group of American pacifists.

Rev. Waterson has told Peace News that he hopes to organise a public meeting in Bexhill next week.

"We must lift this question of H-bomb warfare out of the sphere of political action into one of Christian action," he added. "I am neither for or against the Soviet Union or the USA."

Members of the Peace Pledge Union who would be willing to support such action as that suggested by Rev. Waterson and Winifred Rawlings are asked to send in their names to Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

Wake scientists to responsibility

Another suggestion for direct action comes from ex-scientist Caecilia M. Pugh, of Plymouth, who writes to Peace News:

"The catastrophe which threatens to exterminate life on this planet could be averted if atomic scientists were awakened to a sense of responsibility. No man ought to allow himself to touch anything which contributes to the making of an atomic bomb. Research scientists are all too frequently brilliant intellectuals set apart from childhood upwards to the pursuit of pure knowledge."

"Some gesture is needed to shock them into a realisation of the world of sentient beings among whom they live. I suggest the setting apart of one day (say January 1, 1952) for a demonstration by people of every race and nation all over the world against atomic scientists permitting themselves to engage in the production of atomic bombs."

Women's petition

In the same town, Plymouth Women's Peace Group are collecting signatures to a petition to local MPs. It says:

We the undersigned electors in the constituencies of Devonport and Sutton ask you, our elected Members of Parliament, to urge upon the Government that new instructions be given to the British representatives on United Nations Commissions, designed to break the present deadlock between the USSR and the USA, and bring about the banning of atom bombs and other weapons of mass destruction.

Also to assist in establishing trade relationships, cultural contacts and mutual help between East and West.

Because the petition is being so cordially received, Mrs. L. S. Benson, of 90 Mt. Gold Road, Plymouth, secretary to the Group, suggests that people in other constituencies send something similar to their MPs.

Bishop's Challenge

In Gloucester last week a crowded public meeting at the Friends Meeting House unanimously decided to establish a local Peace Council.

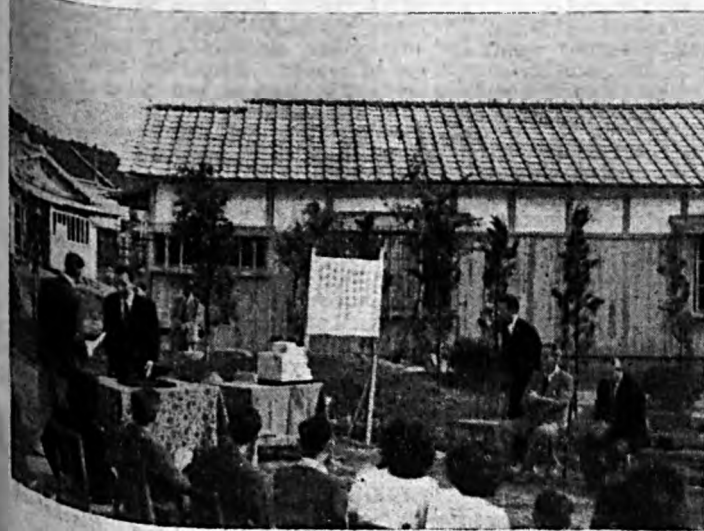
The resolution setting up the council was tabled at the conclusion of an address by Mr. T. Corder Catchpool on "East, West and the Atom." Secretary to the new council, Walter H. Hawkins, in a letter to the Gloucester "Citizen," draws attention to the Bishop of Gloucester's challenging statement in the Gloucester Diocesan letter: that peace cannot be preserved through armed strength since "experience seems to show that when once a race in armament making begins, it inevitably leads towards war and not away from it."

The Bishop calls for "a supreme effort to find a *modus vivendi* with the Russians."

"Whatever we may think of the men of the Kremlin, we cannot conceive that they are insane; and it is only madmen who, knowing what war must mean—to their own country no less than that of the enemy—would deliberately set one in motion."

THE PEACE HOUSES OF HIROSHIMA

"These houses express the goodwill of many hundreds of people who had regretted our use of the bomb," the Mayor of Hiroshima was told by the leader of an American team of conscientious objectors who built the house shown below. The ceremony of handing over four houses, illustrated here, is described by a member of the building team on page five. Right: scene of devastation after bomb fell.



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or direct from the above address.

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About ourselves

ON April 28 Peace News will expand to 8 pages for an experimental period of six months, in the hope of making those dimensions permanent.

Our main reason for increasing our size is to enable the paper to be more representative of the pacifist movement as a whole and with a wider appeal.

Pacifists vary in their tastes more widely than most people, mainly because they are the most intelligent section of the community and the most argumentative. So the opinions we get as to what kind of paper this ought to be are so varied and conflicting that most of them cancel each other out.

To some extent this simplifies the task of selection. But we want to satisfy as many people as possible and even with our present limited resources we could do this much more if we had more space. At present we feel like a No. 12 foot trying to get into a No. 8 shoe.

But whatever else we aspire to provide, the first thing is news. It is not without reason that we call ourselves "Peace News," for that is first and foremost what we want to give—news of peace: news of what people are saying and doing throughout the world that makes for peace.

"News" generally means bad news. We want to give good news—nothing less than a gospel, in fact. We want to be able to inform an anxious and pessimistic generation that regeneration is going on; that amidst all these preparations for death there are active preparations for creative life.

*

Pacifist propaganda has radically changed in 30 years. Formerly we had to tell people that war is evil. We no longer need to; they know it. What they need telling now is that war is unnecessary. That is the good news the world is waiting for.

Such news is hard to get. It does not pour into our office through tape-machines, as the murders, accidents, international quarrels, divorces and racing results pour into newspaper offices. We have no peace news service, press agencies or reporters. Our infinitesimal staff hasn't time to search all the press haystacks for the needles of significant fact.

To obtain such information we need the unpaid help and co-ordination of like-minded people here and abroad, and a far closer unity in the pacifist movement than at present exists.

A paper of this sort, by serving as a focal point for communication and mutual information, should be one of the chief means of creating that unity.

*

To maintain the increased size we need 2,500 new readers. This means asking for an additional effort on the part of our present supporters. Later we will offer some practical suggestions which may help towards this, but meanwhile we have to make a somewhat embarrassing request.

With our limited resources we cannot please everybody (see above re conflicting demands), and many people, not finding just what they want in the paper, won't support it at all. So we have to ask those who are dissatisfied with the paper in its present limitations to go on buying one they don't like in the hope that, with their help, we may be able to produce one they do like.

Our situation is the opposite of that of a commercially-run paper, which relies for its ultimate support on its original attractiveness. This paper has to rely for its ultimate attractiveness on its original support.

This is an awkward request and we blush as we make it. It sounds all too much like the time-honoured pie-in-the-sky promise which has been made to the working-class at regular intervals for the last million years: Put up with your low wages a little longer and you'll all get double later on.

But we can at least assure our readers that this time the pie really is in the oven.

IRENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

Dick Sheppard House, Endleigh St., WCI

Violence and Crime

A Commentary by FRANK DAWTRY

WHILE the world develops bigger and better bombs, and accepts them as such a matter of course that the hydrogen bomb has already given its name to a new hair style (fancy going out with a peroxide-hydrogen blonde who might go off at any minute), we may not have noticed the recurrence of demands for violence in domestic affairs. Yet our ultimate attitude to war will be affected by our attitude to violence at home.

That there are shocking and disturbing crimes of violence cannot be disputed—nor can the fact occasion any wonder. The youths recently convicted of violence and murder, were aged 5 and 7 at the time of Dunkirk, 6 and 8 during the blitz. They and their like are part of the price we pay for war and while their actions are quite indefensible the community must share the responsibility.

Much more important, the community must share responsibility for their treatment and return to decent life, for it remains as true today as when Winston Churchill said it in 1912 that the civilisation of a nation can be judged by the way it treats its criminals.

Murder must advertise

YET the lead recently given has been a disastrous one. The Lord Chief Justice, after dealing with Dr. Fuchs, went on to sentence two youths to seven years and another to ten years, to show that their type of crime will not be tolerated. Next day there were more coachings in London and they have continued; for crime, like murder, must advertise.

The first execution in Scotland for seventeen years was followed immediately by further murders. In the month following the much publicised return to hanging in England, after its temporary disuse in 1948, there were twice as many murders as in a normal month. And, as the Observer suggests, the publicity given to the recent outbreak of violence may well advertise it; the young tough says "Oh, so they are going to stop us are they? We'll show 'em."

Back to flogging?

BUT the Lord Chief Justice was not content with heavy sentences. He spoke again with obvious regret about his inability to order whipping or flogging, and also hinted that the youths before him were examples of the failure of probation though it is extremely unlikely that they had been placed in probation for any form of violence.

The call for the restoration of flogging has been echoed by fellow judges, and repeated in the House of Commons. But flogging can effect nothing but a bottled-

up desire for revenge; and it is a completely discredited solution. The Cadogan Committee which, in 1938 made a unanimous recommendation that flogging by order of the Courts should be abolished, discovered in its evidence that the flogged were more prone to violence in their later conduct than were those dealt with otherwise. And anyone who has seen a flogged man in prison knows that the psychological harm is tremendous, for such a man became something of a hero—he was tough—he could take it.

Legislation to abolish flogging was introduced as part of Sir Samuel Hoare's Criminal Justice Bill of 1938.

The House of Lords held up the Bill in their determination to retain flogging, and

HAIL AND FAREWELL

You did pretty well, lad, they tell me,
In Arnheim, Tobruk, and the Med;
The ribbons that covered your tunic
In numbers scarce equalled your dead.

To say you were one of the heroes
Is not overstepping the mark;
The women would lie with their
husbands
And dream it was you in the dark.

Well, I'm not altogether astonished
That on your return from the war
You ripped up a Wardour Street loafer
Who got you a bit on the raw.

And I'm hardly consumed with
amazement
That you didn't get off with the birch,
For the rope is for those who do
murder
Without the support of the Church.

It's a pity a change in your habits,—
So capably sown by the State—
Didn't come as you climbed out of khaki
And show you which fellows to hate.

However I see in the papers
The women, at least, remained true,
And stood at the gate half the morning
To read the last news about you.

JON WYNNE-TYSON

their delay was responsible for the shelving of the Bill when the war came. It was introduced again, with modifications, in 1947 and became law in 1948, flogging being finally abolished from Sept. 13, 1948. The Lords had again demurred, but did not press their amendment, because they were after bigger game; their efforts were centred on defeating the Commons vote for the suspension of the death penalty.

Those who lost the fight to end capital punishment have the consolation of knowing that they drew the fire of the enemy.

Tradition in the Lords

THE Home Secretary said last week that the offences for which flogging could

have been awarded in 1948, up to the date of its abolition, numbered 711, but that for the same period of last year they numbered only 597.

This information will not affect the die-hards. The House of Lords next Tuesday will again debate the supposed growth of crimes of violence and Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice, will no doubt speak with his usual severity. He will thus maintain the tradition of the legal Lords.

Early last century they opposed the abolition of the death penalty for the theft of property value 5s.; they opposed the abolition of the pillory. Early this century they strenuously denied the need to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal; and when the Probation of Offenders Act was introduced in 1907 they regarded it as "hardly a first class measure." So there is no need to be alarmed by anything they say next Tuesday.

New Zealand too

THE demand for violence to meet violence is not confined to this country, for there has been the recent and distressing example of the followers of Gandhi who allowed his assassin to be executed. Could there have been a greater anti-climax to any noble life?

And from New Zealand comes the news of a proposal to restore the death penalty there. The use of capital punishment was suspended in that country in 1936 and legally abolished in 1941, by a Labour government honouring its principles. Neither suspension nor abolition were followed by any increase in the murder rate. There have, unfortunately, been some crimes of violence, but the New Zealanders will probably have noticed that we, too, are faced with crimes of violence, and we have just publicly refused to do away with the capital penalty.

Conditioning society to violence

These issues have their very close connection with the larger matters of peace and war on which this commentary must usually concentrate.

War can arise from a state of mind which accepts the war method; and those who believe in and advocate violence in home affairs are unwittingly conditioning the public mind for the acceptance of violence in international affairs.

Those who advocate alternative methods and experiment with them in the use of probation, clinics, special schools, are on their part inoculating the public against the ready acceptance of violence. These ideas must be developed because they represent an offer of the strength of society to the weakness of the offender. That they are rightly based is sufficient; but it is doubly useful that they are also demonstrably successful.

BRITAIN'S BLUNDER

Britain's Blunder, by Peter H. Nicoll, M.A., B.D. The Devonshire Press, Higher Fleet Street, Torquay, Devon, 6s.

AT last peace lovers can welcome an honest and courageous book on the War as a whole.

The author is a Church of Scotland minister and father of two sons who joined the RAF and were both killed, early in the war. This fact may protect Mr. Nicoll from being smeared but it will not protect his book from boycott, judging from the attempt to hold it up. For although the Iron Curtain in Britain has been holed by a number of the ablest critics, it has not been blasted wide open yet.

This modest and competent volume, then, surveys the causes, the conduct, and the consequences of the conflict in a spirit rarely witnessed during these ten years. The reader will be shocked at the blackness of the record under all three heads.

The primal cause, of course, is the Dictate of Versailles, and its aftermath. Here Mr. Nicoll has as his forerunners Lord Keynes, Lord Lothian, and a numerous body of the best judges in Britain and America. Most depressing is the plain unvarnished story of Britain's blundering from the Armistice on. The betrayal of the Weimar Republic, the territorial amputations, the bungling and worse of the League of Nations, the connivance of the elevation of Hitler, the significance of appeasement, coupled by the prodding of the Germans to rearm by a host of repressions and frustrations make up a sorry recital of greed and trickery, not all attributable to Nazism.

Mr. Nicoll attributes the responsibility for the final tragedy in measures far removed from the current estimates, the estimates concocted by desperate blunderers and their publicity machine, striving to hide their misdeeds from a bewildered nation. For it is the same old group of politicians and publicists who have sold two World Wars to their dupes, and a Cold War to boot.

Having sketched the blunders of the prelude, Mr. Nicoll pays his respects to the conduct of the war, with its ruthlessness and stupidity. Both sides are given a hearing, and for a change the Germans are given a fair hearing. *Audi Alteram Partem* is Mr. Nicoll's novel conception of controversy. Peace lovers will not be surprised at his findings. Have not allied methods been aired in a gingerly fashion even in the Commons? Was not the shambles flung in the face of its principle author by Mr. Bevin? And was there among them all one member of Parliament ready to pose as a Champion of Unconditional Surrender? Even the Vansittarts and the Rat Poison Vicars will in due course be shamed, and "Britain's Blunder" is the kind of book that will hasten the day.

*

Particularly valuable is the picture of Germany's Belsen viewed before the War, and again towards its awful culmination. The effects of planned famine by relentless blockade, of sabotage, of subsidised assassination, of the promise, faithfully fulfilled, of the Carthaginian Peace, are graphically depicted in their ensemble for the first time, but not for the last. It is an excellent beginning, to be improved upon and extended until among the politicians themselves arises a Campbell Bannerman to stigmatise such barbarism openly, and adequately.

In the treatment of the consequences, "Britain's Blunder" naturally scores heavily on the promoters of the unnecessary war. Mr. Nicoll fears Communist extremism, and states his Christian faith, with fervour, the Christianity of Peace and Good Will.

But apart from the ideology of the Red Colossus, created by the destroyers of Germany, there is the grand political fact of the ruined equilibrium of Power to be considered. Dealing with this prickly subject, Mr. Nicoll has a splendid text in the catastrophe engineered by our heaven-born war leaders. To reinforce his vivid account of the moral and financial debacle wrought by these men, comes the terrific blow of devaluation, and the military degradation of

the Marshall Aid Plan, the latest proofs of British beggary and impotence.

As a commentary on the party game in which the rulers bamboozle the electorate by charges of misgovernment at home, of squandermania, of class favouritism; palming off these misgivings as the reasons for our bankruptcy and panic, instead of confessing that this totally unnecessary war and their own mishandling of it had rendered bankruptcy inevitable—as a commentary on all that read carefully what Mr. Nicoll writes.

No living man can give a final and perfect version of the biggest blunder in history; but every candid reader will admit that the author has made a good try. And that the author is obliged to conclude that the prospect of retrieving the blundering is dark, and that not even a few foundation stones are being laid of a better world order, who will have the nerve to deny the truth of the general argument?

T. CALLANDER

OUR CAMPAIGN

OUR campaign, based on the new eight-page PEACE NEWS, to co-ordinate and strengthen pacifism will cost a large amount of money. Attractive new posters, window cards, leaflets and other publicity material, widespread advertising and much other expenditure will be required if an adequate effort is to be made.

We need, at least, a special £250 before the end of April to get the campaign under way. Please send, now, a special donation for the PEACE NEWS CAMPAIGN. £1 will buy one hundred posters, a thousand leaflets, a tenth of an inch in a popular newspaper, two hundred miles travel for an advocate of peace... what will you buy? Please buy all you can!

THE EDITOR

Contributions since March 3: £3 19s. 8d.

Total for 1950: £71 4s. 7d.

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News Ltd., and address them to the Accountant, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

Under the shadow of a £780,000,000 Arms Bill—

In the East End of London, a small group of pacifists have a flat in a tenement building. Their work is the helping of "problem families" in the neighbourhood who need a friendly hand if they are to combat the difficulties of daily life.

In a squalid area that will never be rebuilt while Britain continues to spend

£780,000,000 a year on armaments, these young men and women are doing much to soften the impact of war and war preparation on the the underprivileged and the weak.

From the February Newsletter, issued from their Headquarters, 6/355, The Highway, E.1, comes this account of

A PSU worker's day

7.0 a.m. Wakened by alarm—T.F. got up to put on hot water and start preparing breakfast—Slept.

7.15 a.m. T.F. called me—"Hot water ready!"

7.20 a.m. Got up, washed (in kitchen sink), etc.

7.45 a.m. Went to the living-room, where we have prayers every morning. We take it in turns to lead these, always beginning with a reading of the Bible.

8.0 a.m. Breakfast—Porridge burnt.

We take it in turns to do the cooking, each one having a day in the week. The cook's tour of duty starts with the shopping after breakfast, and goes on till the breakfast wash up next day. It is not so economical as if we took a week at a time, but this would be difficult to fit in with the work. The cooking and shopping itself is, of course, useful experience, as well as being dictated by necessity.

We get plenty to eat and the standard of cooking is not bad.

8.50 a.m. While the others washed up, I did a few repairs to a draining board I was going to put up for Mrs. R.

10.0 a.m. Took draining board round, and fitted it up.

A few months ago, Mrs. R., whose husband is in an epileptic colony, and who has six children from three to fourteen years old, had her first holiday since her marriage, when she was sent for a fortnight's convalescence, after being in hospital with bronchial pneumonia. While she was away, we gave the house a thorough clean up, and she returned with renewed vigour to make a fresh start. Since then there has been a transformation in the home. This morning she met me at the door with a scrubbing brush, as she was in the middle of doing the floors.

She will soon be able to manage without any help from us.

12.0 noon. Left Mrs. R., and dropped in at the public baths on the way back.

We have got a bath in the flat, but as it is in the kitchen and the hot water system does not work, we find it easier to have a twopenny one at the public baths. You get a very good bath, with plenty of hot water, and you can get soap for 1½d. if you want it.

12.45 p.m. Back to Unit: read paper till dinner.

1.0 p.m. Very hungry: laid table.

1.10 p.m. Dinner—a little late.

1.55 p.m. Washing up. Discussed the W family with T.F.

The W's were referred to us for child neglect 18 months ago. Their standards

are much higher than they used to be, but they are living in the most appalling conditions. We have been quite unable to get the authorities to rehouse them, and we feel that we can make little further progress until they do get somewhere decent to live. Meanwhile we are trying to prevent a relapse, and to get them ready for the move when eventually it is possible.

2.15 p.m. Went to the Post Office to start an account for Mr. W. He wants to start saving for his new home.

2.30 p.m. P.N. visited Mr. W's employer.

Mr. W. has had 26 jobs in just over four years, since he left the Fire Service. He grows discontented with his work in part because he feels he is capable of doing more than a labourer's job, and resents the chaffing he gets from the other men for his slowness. We are trying to help him to get a more satisfying job, and visited his employer at his request, and found him most co-operative.

In part, of course, Mr. W's restlessness is due to his discontent with his home circumstances. He looks back to an idealised picture of his childhood when they had "plush antimacassars, and a mirror over the mantelpiece, with golden eagles on it."

4.0 p.m. Return to Unit. Phone calls to Mr. W's landlord about a leaking pipe, and to the Fire Service Benevolent Fund, which is considering giving Mr. W. a grant towards furniture, when he does get moved.

4.10 p.m. Wrote up case papers.

5.20 p.m. Helped with tea.

5.30 p.m. Tea.

6.15 p.m. Another read and smoke before getting ready for the club.

6.45 p.m. Cut out some leather for the club leather work class, and made preparations for the club meeting.

The club is the Ratcliffe branch of the Bedford Institute. I am club leader of the Junior Section, and go along two nights a week to meetings held in a local school. The Unit's connection with the club is one of long standing, and we get a small income from them in return for our assistance.

9.10 p.m. All the club members thrown out. Cleared up.

9.30 p.m. Back to Unit. Ironed some shirts.

10.0 p.m. Cocoa. Then read till 11.0, and went to bed.

"Not all days are as full as this one," says the Newsletter, "but in choosing the day we have tried to show the variety of the work we do, and in writing it to give some picture of our communal life."

HEAVEN or HELL?

President and World Citizen

THE French paper "Citoyen du Monde" has claimed President Vincent Auriol as world-citizen of the week.

Said M. Auriol, "I am very pleased to make this gesture. I now await with the greatest interest the response of other State leaders." A happy coincidence with the President's recent official visit to this country.

The Newsprint Curtain

THE challenge of pacifism seems at last to be penetrating the impervious "curtain" of newsprint.

The insistence of ordinary people everywhere for a voice in their ultimate destiny can no longer be denied space.

Hitherto, humble people have always managed to make their own heaven on earth out of the most unlikely material; but the frontiers of hell are encroaching beyond the bounds of decency. We are getting to the end of our tether; and editors, if they are wise, will not ignore the writing on the wall, but will put it on paper as well.

Disarmament Vote—

IN a recent issue of the Birmingham Post, Dr. R. Macdonald Ladell replied to the Archbishop of York's view that, if they failed to reach agreement with Russia, the "peace-loving nations" should exact a "terrible retribution" from the nation that first uses atom bombs.

Dr. Ladell writes that fear is never a satisfactory deterrent, being more likely to provoke aggression than allay it. He suggests a period of intensive education by Parliament, Church, Press and Radio on the vital issue of total disarmament, followed by a national referendum.

"If decided for disarmament, then for the first time in history Christianity would become something more than an ideal. It would show itself to be a living force. It would be better to go down under that banner, if go down we must, than by the H-bomb."

or General Strike?

THE American "Catholic Worker" for February carries a striking editorial on The Hell Bomb, and concludes that the only answer to total war is absolute pacifism, implemented by non-co-operation in all war-preparations.

"Here is the opportunity for the workers who want peace to call a general strike against those plants involved in the production of war materials. Here is the opportunity for all those who prize Christ more than the State, who believe that war today is simple murder, who refuse to hide behind fine distinctions and outmoded arguments—here is the opportunity for all such men, for all men of good will to take a definite stand, to call a halt to the insanity of war, to say "No"—and in saying "No," to oppose love to hate, Christ to the world, the Kingdom of Heaven to that kingdom which man has built."

This appeal was reinforced by a meeting of Protestant and Jewish clergy at Newark, USA, who cabled President Truman to arrange a peace conference with Soviet leaders and endeavour to achieve an understanding. As ministers of religion, they urged that every available means should be pursued to stop "this maniacal march toward world destruction."

Socialist Call

THE Socialists of America are also rallying for peace. The Feb. 10 issue of The Call was given over to the testimonial luncheon in New York in honour of Norman

Thomas, leading U.S. Socialist who helped to found the American Civil Liberties Union and the League for Industrial Democracy.

Thomas made a fervent plea for peace to an audience of 1,500 and a radio public of millions, calling on America to reassert its lost moral authority by starting "a chain reaction among the peoples and governments of the world against the insanity of mass destruction."

Endorsing Senator MacMahon's recent proposals, Norman Thomas went further in suggesting an approach to Stalin with a specific programme. He proposed: increasing the power of the United Nations to supervise disarmament down to a police level; an end to peace-time conscription; the liquidation of all weapons of mass-destruction.

Support for COs—

A LIVELY correspondence in the Blackburn Times has brought strong support for the stand taken by a young local CO, and a general discussion at a high level of the analogies, false and true, between pacifism, freedom and self-defence.

The Jewish Chronicle reports that about a hundred and fifty youths in Jerusalem have refused to register for military service. They are mostly members of the ultra-orthodox Neturei Karta organisation which does not recognise the present Israeli Government, and are said to be appealing to the United Nations against conscription. No action has so far been taken against them by the government.

and Others

REVIEWING Denis Hayes' "Challenge of Conscience," for the Labour weekly, Tribune, Dr. Alex Comfort discusses an unusual aspect of war-resistance.

The men who drop out of the war-machine for other than conscientious reasons—"the deserters, the skirmishers, and even those who profess their military spirit but break down from psycho-somatic disease"—might, he suggests, be acting in defence of a basic human right. Passive resistance as a mass movement might be less saintly and less coherent than the struggle of the conscientious objector, but of greater immediate relevance to the issue of making successful war impossible.

The objector, Dr. Comfort says, may be conscientious or merely human; it is for the avowed pacifists to put spine and vigour—and, it may be added, the right kind of purpose—into this resistance.

Science for Peace

ELEVEN leading British atomic scientists have issued a statement on the elimination of atomic warfare, urging new efforts to solve the problem of atomic control and the wider problem of international relations.

All nations, they said, would have to be prepared to sacrifice some of their national interests for a realistic hope of peace.

Signatories include: Prof. G. P. Thomson, Professor of Physics at Imperial College; Dr. E. H. S. Burhop, secretary of the Atomic Sciences Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers; Dr. F. C. Champion, secretary of the Atomic Scientists' Association; Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale, of University College, London; Prof. R. E. Peierls, Professor of Physics at Birmingham University; Prof. J. Rotblat, Professor of Physics at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Dr. L. E. J. Roberts, of Harwell.

The Basque Children

READERS who participated in the Langham scheme of caring for Basque refugee children will be interested to hear that the work is now being satisfactorily wound up, writes the Duchess of Atholl, President of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief.

Less than three hundred of the original four thousand children still remain in this country. Many have been repatriated, others have found homes in France, Mexico and South America. The Committee expresses gratitude for the support of so many generous friends over a long and difficult period.

MARGARET TIMS

APOLOGY TO MICE

I AM happy to report that Science is coming to our aid in endeavouring to discover the causes of war.

To this worthy end, a colony of 100,000 specially bred mice is being studied at the Roscoe B. Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine. Dr. Fredericson, one of the researchers, explained to the Press: "Why do men fight? Well, we may get some notion of that by asking, 'Why do mice fight?' The wars of mice and the wars of men have much in common—both are senseless."

I AM not sure I quite like this approach to the subject. The implication that men have no worthier motives for war than those of mice seems to verge upon rudeness.

As far as can be ascertained, mice have no religion or ideals to kill each other for. Further, as all mice live by similar habits, no herd or houseful of mice would ever fight another to Preserve their Musocratic Way of Life.

The only possible kind of mouse-war is an economic war for sources of raw (or cooked) materials or a war for Lebensraum due to housing and cat shortage.

But today the human species has raised itself above that materialistic level. Its wars are exclusively ideological, and constitute in themselves proof that man is higher than the brutes. The eminent scientist ignores this distinction. He says he has studied his mice so thoroughly that he can tell in advance which mice will fight for a piece of cheese—as though he could tell from that which men will fight for freedom or what have we.

While I was speculating as to why so many scientists can see no essential difference between themselves and mice, my thoughts were interrupted by a deputation of mice, who wanted to lodge a protest. "It is an insult to mousian intelligence,"

said their spokesman, "to compare our wars to those of men."

"I need cite only one major point of difference: our wars are successful. When mice fight for cheese, the winning side gets the cheese. But if men fought for cheese there would be no cheese left afterwards, for men invariably destroy, in the process, whatever they fight for. No mouse could sink to such a level of imbecility."

SQUEAKS of applause greeted this observation, and thus encouraged the speaker continued:

"But men are now proposing to carry their idiocy a stage further. They are busily preparing for war which, they admit before-hand, will eliminate not only all they are fighting for but themselves also."

"Whatever charges can be brought against mice, racial suicide is not one of them. We are, indeed, accused of being too much the other way inclined. And to seek in mice the cause of man's determination to obliterate his own species could only occur to the perverted mind of a professor of science."

"We should therefore be obliged, sir, if you would call attention to this inconsistency, and assist in removing a slur which has been cast upon a species which, by universal standards, is not lacking in intelligence."

I PROMISED to do so, and when my visitors had departed I went round the house removing all mouse-traps out of harm's way.

I thought that, since man seems determined to eliminate himself, we might as well leave what's left of the planet to the care of a species which does at least possess some elementary instinct of self-preservation.

PEACE MEETINGS

NOTTINGHAM

LONDON

SOUTHPORT

Indonesia: A stabilising factor in S.E. Asia

MEDIATION which led up to last year's Hague conference and the setting up of the United States of Indonesia was described by Mrs. Olive Renier, speaking at Nottingham on March 5 at a lecture in the series "The Awakening East—Peace or War?" arranged by the Society of Friends and the Friends' Peace Committee as the greatest success the United Nations had so far had.

At present, said the speaker, the United States of Indonesia was a federation consisting of the Republic of Java and other states, but she thought it very probable that the Republic would get back into its administration those parts of Java and Sumatra which were separated from it during the course of the first and second military actions by the Dutch.

It seemed very probable, in view of the enormous size and divergences of climate and population, that a federal system would be very much more suitable to the terrain.

Mrs. Renier said that the most crucial point about the new relationship of the Dutch and Indonesians was the economic side. Indonesia was now in a fairly bankrupt condition owing a very large debt to the Netherlands Government, but she formed a natural economic unit if through reconstruction she could be developed with money from outside. How was she to get investments from abroad without sacrificing her economic independence?

"I don't believe that Indonesia is of the slightest strategic or military importance to all the power politicians," said Mrs. Renier. "It is only of strategic importance in the sense that it could become a land of good living, of a high standard of living and of a satisfied and educated populace."

That could be achieved, she believed, without a complete break from the Dutch, and under the present Union, even if it had to be altered and modified in some particulars.

In a reference to the outcome of the "Turk" Westerling incident, Mrs. Renier said it had triumphantly vindicated the co-operation between Dutch and Indonesians.

She thought the Dutch would find that their own interests would not be too violated by the new country when they got used to it, but at the moment everything was still in a state of chaos and she could not really say with any exactitude what was likely to happen. But she had a feeling that, in all the chaos of Asia, there was a nation which had possibilities and which, given peace and understanding between the people working there, could be of really vital importance in the world. Indonesia could be a very stabilising factor in economics as well as in politics in South-East Asia.

'BRITAIN SHOULD BE NEUTRAL'

KINGSLEY MARTIN, editor of the New Statesman, addressing a meeting at Regent Square Presbyterian Church last week, advocated neutrality as the right policy for Britain.

Though he had advocated this policy for some time, he said, the H-bomb had given the matter an even greater urgency.

He was not advocating pacifist neutrality; he had once been a pacifist himself, but had come to believe that if one took part in political action one must run the risk of being involved in violence. Pacifism, he felt, was a policy of resistance but not a policy of action or government. If Christ had met the Good Samaritan's protégée when the robbers were still attacking him, we do not know what Christ would have done. Could he have rescued the victim by non-violent means?

"Russia does not want war"

Referring to the fear now gripping the world—Russia fearing the West; the West fearing Russia—he said emphatically that Russia did not want war. No country in the world, except possibly Yugoslavia, had suffered so much from war. Moreover, Russia knew that America with her mass production methods, was far ahead of her in weapons and equipment.

While therefore Russia might incite the workers in capitalist countries to overthrow their governments, she was elaborately careful not to arouse the hostility of troops in other countries. War between America and Russia was already taking place, but it was waged by foreign troops in foreign lands. The Giants themselves did not take part.

As for America, Kingsley Martin said that few people realised her enormous wealth. Since the war she had been pouring out her surplus, first through UNRRA, then through Marshall Aid. The remaining surplus went for the provision of arms to all non-Communist countries; it was therefore in the American interest that war fear should be kept alive in Europe.

International Women's Day

WE MUST BE FREE TO LIVE

IT was an impressive sight to see the Kingsway Hall packed—it was estimated that about 2,000 were present—at a meeting organised by the International Women's Day Committee on March 8.

Coloured banners draped the platform; streamers displaying such slogans as "Women Unite for Peace," "Peace our Birthright," "Friendship with our Colonial Sisters" were displayed around the walls, while to commence the meeting the Workers Musical Association gave a programme of songs, including one written specially for the occasion:

*Stronger grows our bond of friendship
Frontiers fade and conflicts cease
Women though the World divides them
Fight the cause of lasting Peace.*

Mrs. Leah Manning, who took the chair, had on either side of her delegates from France, India, and the Soviet Union. Women's International Day, she said, was being celebrated all the world over, including Russia and other East European countries, but not Spain. She read messages of encouragement from leaders in all walks of life: The Church (Bishop Barnes), the stage (Dame Sybil Thorndike and Vivien Leigh), the Festival of Britain (Sir Gerald Barry) and organisations in Cyprus, Australia, Hungary, Rumania, China and Poland.

Support for French dockers

A great ovation greeted the first woman delegate, Mrs. Angela Chevrin, Secretary of the Union of French Women. She spoke of the fight that French women were waging, by large public meetings, by delegations to Parliament, but especially by uniting solidly behind the railwaymen, and the dockers in their determination to prevent the entry of war materials into the country. "Let the women and mothers upon whom posterity depends know that we consider it a sacred duty to preserve the lives of their children and the security of their homes."

Mrs. Isabel Brown, speaking later in the meeting, referred to the "ever growing terrible fear of the H-bomb." It was right that men should feel that fear when a leading statesman of America had been quoted as saying "When the next war comes, although London and most of Britain would quickly be destroyed, Britain would still be useful as an aircraft carrier for the United States."

Yet the position was not hopeless. Leaders of the Church and newspapers (she quoted from the Times and the Manchester Guardian) were united in saying that since the only possible use of the H-bomb was that of mass destruction there could be no possible justification for its manufacture. Russia had put forth one plan; America another; if there was any

—Kingsley Martin

Since, therefore, neither America nor Russia were likely to reach agreement on their own, it remained for Britain to bring sanity to the world.

Britain had more reason to fear war than any other Power. Russia or America, with their vast territories, could survive an atom bomb. But one bomb could blot out London. One or two on our ports, preventing imports, could cause the starvation of the British people. As a power she would cease to exist.

Yet he did not believe in panic measures, such as the flights of Mr. Churchill to Moscow. The neutrality he advocated was a long term policy, and the steps to attain it were briefly these:

1. Britain must become independent. At the moment she was "well and truly screwed down inside the American orbit." Marshall Aid should end by 1951 at latest, and the British people should be willing to accept a drastic cut in their standard of living as a result.

2. Britain should free herself from all foreign commitments. Here again he realised the difficulties, particularly in such places as Malaya, where there was no one responsible Government to take over, and where the fighting would probably continue. But Britain must be free to be neutral.

3. Britain must refuse to be used as an American base; she must demand the return of all American forces and bombers. She must refuse to store bombs. She should then declare to the world that she maintained defensive forces only—radar, and fighter defence in case of invasion, but no aggressive weapons.

He did not consider this policy impossible. Nor did he think it was a selfish policy. It would be the first step towards sanity, and when Britain had shown the way, he believed that other countries would follow. A neutral Britain might bring peace to the world.

sincerity anywhere a bridge between the two would be found.

But perhaps the highlight of the meeting was the acceptance by the teachers, workers, housewives, and children of Britain of greetings from the teachers, workers, housewives and children of Leipzig.

In answer to the greetings sent by the children of Leipzig, who wished "that all the flags would mingle" and that there could be a world where "Daddy will always come home from work," Elizabeth Piratin, a London school girl, aged 12, replied: "We don't want another war either; we don't want to drop bombs; We'd rather write to them, or go to see them; Can you help me to find friends to write to; we want to dance and work and play; we must be allowed to live!"

O.B.

Leah Manning to speak at Central Hall; see page six.

Never too old for peace work

KITCHENER'S famous call, "Your King and country need you," was slightly revised at a meeting on March 4 of the Islington Medical Centre Community Club, when Tristan Nelson, chairman of the Islington Peace Group (PPU), told 130 members, mostly old folk, that their country needed them—for Peace.

Praising the nobility and great courage of two Greek Jehovah's Witnesses who had been executed for refusing military service, the speaker outlined the work of the War Resisters' International and its British section, the Peace Pledge Union, which continued to champion the war resister in this country.

Recalling the tremendous loss of life in two world wars and the increasing ferocity of the weapons used, Mr. Nelson said he had no wish to frighten anyone, but the future had to be faced.

Lord Trenchard had told the House of Lords that between 10 and 20 million people would be killed in the first month of an atomic war.

Dr. Alex Comfort, the scientist and broadcaster, had quoted estimates of the medical aid necessary in the event of only one old-type atom bomb being dropped on a thickly populated city: 170,000 professional staff (nurses, doctors and technicians), 8,000 tons of medical supplies and £3 million—would be required merely to deal with radiation burns, quite apart from the huge roll of deaths—all that for one bomb.

The speaker told of the reaction of the Mayor and the people of Hiroshima, who had solemnly renounced war and had set aside August 6 as World Peace Day. He drew attention to the recent World Pacifist Meeting which was front-page news in India and the subject of daily broadcasts in that country.

Finally, Mr. Nelson suggested how the old folk in the audience could help to create peace. They could talk peace wherever they went. They could write to their MP, to local and national newspapers and to magazines. They were never too old, he said, to join a political party, where they could ask questions and put forward resolutions.

Rallying the Church for Peace

'IT IS PRACTICAL POLITICS IN 1950,' says FoR speaker

THE Church appears powerless today because the Christian message does not seem relevant to the situation," said Mr. Hugh Faulkner, secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, speaking at an FoR meeting in Southport last Friday.

"Our job is to make our action relevant to the immediate situation in which we live, to reckon with the world's urgent need, the abolition of war and the achievement of world unity. It is a hard task," he said.

They had to realise that the world was physically one. Many people said the immediate job was to create a world parliament and put it down in this chaotic world and all would be well. Personally he thought that was an unrealistic step to take.

"If we want world government, as we must do, we first must have a greater degree of world community. That is our concern at the moment," he said.

They should not be afraid of Communism, as expressed in Russia, as so many fellow Christians seemed afraid of it. Their frustration and fear drove them into ways of violence. They sought methods which were Communistic to defeat it.

Communism aimed at abolishing war and achieving world unity, but they must disagree with its methods.

The aim of Communism was to solve the problems of the age and that explained why it thrived in several places where there

Education for peace

"**P**ACIFISM is incompatible with the totalitarian way of life, and we should not be afraid to say so," Rev. Alun Williams told a week-end school held at Southport on March 4 and 5 by the North-West Area of the Peace Pledge Union.

The subject for discussion was "Education for Peace."

The Rev. Alun Williams of Preston, the opening speaker, gave a resume of pacifism during the last 20 years. He felt that muddled thinking had caused divided loyalty in the movement and instanced the futile co-operation of some pacifists with the League of Nations. Such dangers, he said, were still present.

It was a fallacy to say that because people were opposed to something that they could have common agreement. He felt we could not co-operate with Communists whose cry for peace was only one of expediency.

Difficult dividing line

It was difficult to ask people to renounce war when war work covered such a large field; it was still more difficult to draw a dividing line between war work and peace work.

It was said that if men renounced war, all would be well. This was a false line to take. The way of peace demanded sacrifice; we could only offer the world, "Blood, Sweat and Tears." There was no easy way out.

We must call for disarmament. It might be that if we renounced war as a nation it would have no effect on other nations but it was a risk we must take. Such a risk presented the only alternative to war which would be the end of civilisation.

Value of personal witness

Speaking at the second session, Mrs. Lily Oehlcke expressed a belief in the value of personal witness. No amount of propaganda, she said, could be as valuable as this.

Her son had taken his stand against war preparation at school and it had had a tremendous effect. He had brought the whole challenge of another way before the school.

Women had a special contribution to make for peace but their place was in the home. Mrs. Oehlcke opposed the Welfare State, which, she said, took children away from parental influence. Parents were the greatest potential source of good influence.

Many teachers had been too quiet about their pacifism. When young people had so much to face teachers should at least make their beliefs known. She regretted that there were very few schools where the conscience clause was pointed out to young people.

Lathom Boardman condemned the whole present system of education. It was conducted, he said, with the sole aim of passing examinations. Failure to pass caused an anti-climax to the child that could not be eliminated.

The three sessions were chaired by George Gibb, May Hibbert and Sam Walsh. Organisation of the Conference, held at the Orleans Guest House, was undertaken by Llew Lloyd.

were competing interests. It could not be defeated by war. Its challenge could be met only by the recognition of a greater power, an inspired and finer power. A more effective and satisfying life and order of society was called for. There was no other way. Once they got on with the building of that society they would be too busy to fear any Communist onslaught.

The greater power of Christendom was growing as evidenced at Amsterdam in 1948.

"If we want a greater degree of world community out of which world government will develop and provide an adequate challenge to Communism the world community of Christians will provide it," he said.

The world Christian community must renounce war and speak against it. The Church as a fellowship of Christians, a supra-national fellowship above nations would not be broken, whatever states might decide.

"We have to use all the opportunities we can of bringing this constructive vision before our fellow Christians. We are now the people who say 'Yes' to peace, not 'No' to war," said Mr. Faulkner.

"It is practical politics in 1950," he said, "because it starts from the situation that science has made and reckons with the growth of the greatest movement in history, the World Church and sees the answer in the creation of world community."

CARL HEATH—A PACIFIST OF WORLD-WIDE ACTIVITIES

By HUBERT PEET

CARL HEATH died on March 4 in a nursing home at Guildford, at the age of 80.

He retired in 1935 from his secretaryship of the Friends Service Council and he had been the Chairman (later the Honorary Chairman) of The Friends World Committee, which has done important work in linking Quakers throughout the world.

Carl Heath, who came of Baptist and Quaker stock, was educated at the Quaker School, in Paris and at the University of London. He had been an arts and crafts master in England and was a helper of Canon Barnett at St. John's, Whitechapel, and at Toynbee Hall. After tutoring the children of the late Lord Oliver of Mr. J. A. Hobson, the Liberal economist, he was appointed secretary of the National Peace Council in 1909.

His work and interests brought him much into touch with the Society of Friends and individual Quakers, and after the outbreak of the 1914 war he and his wife found that it was among them that their spiritual home existed, and they were accepted into membership.

During that war Carl Heath put forward his suggestions for "Quaker Embassies" in strategic spots at home and abroad, and after the end of the war and partly as the result of the interest created by Quaker relief work it was found possible to start such centres, not only in the chief capitals of Europe but also, as time went on in Calcutta, Delhi and Shanghai.

Apart from his work for the Society of Friends, Carl Heath's chief activity was as chairman of the India Conciliation Group. This arose out of his personal contact with Mr. Gandhi both in India and during the Round Table Conference in London, and also out of his friendly contacts with other Indian leaders like Mr. Nehru,

with Viceroy like Lord Halifax, Lord Linlithgow and Lord Willingdon and with friends of a life time such as Sir Stafford Cripps, C. F. Andrews, Lord Pethick-Lawrence and others.

Quietly and unobtrusively efforts were made to overcome difficulties, to remove misunderstandings, and to promote conciliation in every way possible. The story of this work will make interesting reading one day when it can be told.

Carl Heath did not like the limelight. He was always modest of his own wide knowledge and of his considerable powers. But he spent himself in the causes he espoused. He was cheerful and a practical mystic who drew his power from his belief that whatever happens it is God who reigns and that acting as His servants and agents we must never lose hope.

He wrote numerous pamphlets and a number of books, among the latter were "Religion in Public Life," the Friends Swarthmore Lecture of 1922, "Pacifism in Time of War," "The Ikon of the Invisible God," "The Challenge of Karl Barth," "Social and Religious Heretics in Five Centuries," and also a book on Gandhi.



CARL HEATH

WORK CAMP NOTES

Pacifist "Territorials" work for peace

"Pick-and-shovel peacemakers" will be wanted for the following Spring and Easter Services of Service Civil International. Further details are obtainable from International Voluntary Service for Peace, 3 Cromwell Road, S.W.7.

ALGERIA: Continuation of work at Oued-Aissi or work in Blida or Algiers. April 1-22. 3-4 experienced volunteers needed from outside Algeria or France.

AUSTRIA: Commencing building of Children's Home—"Kinderdorf Imst," near Innsbruck. 15 volunteers. Dates not yet known.

FRANCE: Probably two Easter services.

GERMANY: Three Easter services (plus one AFSC).

GREAT BRITAIN: Probably three services as follows:
Bermondsey: converting bomb sites into playgrounds.
Bodenham Manor: clearing ground at Home for invalid children.
Liverpool: gardening at Youth Club.

HOLLAND: Amsterdam. April 3-22. 17 volunteers. Building a sport and playing

JAPAN JOURNEY—15

The Peace Houses of Hiroshima

BY the first of October we had two of our four houses completed. The water and electricity were in, although not yet connected, and the tatami (matting) was down.

It would still be a week or ten days before Number Three and Four units were ready but since some of our work camp group were leaving for home we decided to have the formal presentation ceremonies on Saturday, Oct. 1. I left all the details to the Mayor and the City Officials but asked them to make it simple and brief.

I was embarrassed to discover that the invitations which they sent to about a 100 people, including the Press, called the project; "Minamimachi Schmoe Houses." In my short speech of presentation I took occasion to correct that because, even if I had liked the idea, it was not fair to the friendly American people who had made the houses possible and the 15 or 20 people who had helped me build them. These houses expressed the goodwill of many hundreds of people who had regretted our use of the atom bomb. So the name was changed to "Hei wa Jutaku,"—Peace Houses.

I said further: "On this stone lantern, (erected in a garden shared by the houses) which is itself a symbol of light and under-

AS a gesture of international friendship, a party of Americans led by Professor Floyd Schmoe of the American FoR, visited Japan on a project to help build houses for some of the innocent victims of the war. The cost was contributed by interested Americans and the scheme was under the care of the Japan Yearly Meeting of Friends.

standing, we have had three words engraved. In the characters which we in the West use to express ideas, they say 'That there may be peace.' In the Chinese characters which you of the East use to express your ideas they say, 'Inoru hei wa.' The words are different but the meaning is the same.

"To me it is a hope and a prayer . . . a hope for a world at peace . . . a world in which all peoples can live and work without the fear of another Hiroshima. A world in which your people and my people can build together, as we have built these houses and this garden, a new, and a better world for all.

"What we felt at the tragedy of Hiroshima four years ago we could not adequately express in words, so we came here at the first opportunity to build houses for your homeless people. They add substance to our feeling and our words.

For the city that suffered most

"We have lived and worked with you this summer in a spirit of love and understanding. So all peoples must learn to live and to work together in peace and understanding. The work which we do becomes the visible expression of our love.

"Please accept, Mayor Hamai, for the people of Hiroshima and for the city which suffered the world's worst man-made catastrophe, these houses and this garden in this spirit and with this hope."

There were other speeches, and the Mayor presented us with a beautiful scroll on which were written their thanks and a fine bronze and silver vase for each American member of our party. The city is also shipping to me in Seattle as a token of their appreciation a beautiful stone lantern which shows the effects of the atomic blast upon its hard granite surface.

After completing our House for Hiroshima project, our work camp broke up. The Japanese youngsters returned to their jobs and their schools, Andy and Daisy left for America, and Ruth Jenkins went to Fukuoka where she will teach this winter. I took a train for Tokyo to see more of my friends and to visit some of the beautiful and historical spots of Japan which I had missed last summer.

THE END

Notes for your Diary

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent to us. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Friday, March 17

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens; B. W. Campbell on "The Peace of a Law Court"; Central London PPU.

Saturday, March 18

AMERSHAM: 3 p.m. Friends Meeting Whielden Street; Area annual meeting; PPU.
NOTTINGHAM: 3 p.m. Adult School; R. W. Sorensen, MP, on "Peace in the Home"; Chairman: Donald W. Pipe; Secretary: D. H. Bending; 76 Clifford Avenue, Beeston, Notts.; FoR.
LEDS: 3 p.m. West Riding Area Conf.; Friends Meeting House; Speaker: Hugh Faulkner; FoR.

Sunday, March 19

ROTHAM: 6.30 p.m. Friends Meeting; Reginald Reynolds on The World Meeting in India; FPC.
HIGH WYCOMBE: 3 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Margie Yoors Peeters on The World Pacifist Meeting in India; FPC.
NOTTINGHAM: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting; R. W. Sorensen, MP, on "Peace in the Home"; Chairman: Donald W. Pipe; Secretary: D. H. Bending; 76 Clifford Avenue, Beeston, Notts.; FoR.

Monday, March 20

TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Open-air meeting; Gwyneth Anderson and Bryan Anstey; PPU.
LONDON, W.1: 7 p.m. NCC London Branch meeting; Weigh House Church; Speaker: J. P. on "Citizen of Two Worlds"; FoR.

Tuesday, March 21

BIDEFORD: 7.30 p.m. Town Hall; Speaker: Minnie Pallister; Public Meeting; PPU.
ST. ALBANS: 8 p.m. Friends Meeting; House, Upper Lattimer Road; Mr. F. R. Baker, JP, on "Citizen of Two Worlds"; FoR.

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER WAR.
This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to:
P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1

WELLINGBOROUGH: 7.45 p.m. Friends Meeting House, St. Johns Street; Hugh Faulkner on "The Way to World Unity"; FoR.

Thursday, March 23

NORWICH: 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House, Upper Goat Ln.; Wilfred Wellock: "The World Pacifist Meeting in India"; Society of Friends.
LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air Meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Friday, March 24

OKERHAMPTON: 7.30 p.m. Congregational School room; Minnie Pallister on "Peace? How? What Price?"; PPU.
PENZANCE: 7.30 p.m. Congregational Church Hall; Dr. A. D. Belden; Public Meeting.

Monday, March 27

ST. IVES: 7.30 p.m. Palais de Danse, Barnoon Hill; Minnie Pallister on "Is Peace Possible?"; PPU.
TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Open-air meeting; Gwyneth Anderson and Bryan Anstey; PPU.

Thursday, March 30

LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air Meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Saturday, April 1

LONDON, W.C.1: 2 p.m. Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street; Meeting of Non-Violence Group; Speaker: Roy Walker; PPU members welcome.

Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2
BURY IN WHARFESHIRE: Weekend School at The Adult School Guest House, Hag Farm Lane; Saturday, 3.30 p.m. to Sunday, 8 p.m. Inclusive Charge 16s., with a reduction for children; Applications, with 5s. deposit, to Kenneth Chadwick, 32 Spencer Place, Leeds 7; PPU.

Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7
CRICH, NR. MATLOCK: Commencing 5 p.m.; weekend school; Speaker: Minnie Pallister on "World Problems"; Cost: adults 17s. 6d., children under 10, 8s. 6d. Special bus from Sheffield 9s. return; Names with 5s. deposit should be sent by March 18 to Eleanor Pease, 28 East Bank Place, Sheffield 2; PPU.

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MEETINGS

WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1. (Bond St. Tube), Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

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AUSTRALIAN PACIFIST young married couple require permanent accommodation, London area. Box 147.

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ECONOMY LABELS for re-using envelopes. Large, good quality, cheap; publishing Peace News. Post free, for 1s., 50; 1s. 9d., 100; 15s., 1,000. Also plain economy labels 1s., 100; 8s. 6d., 1,000 post free. Peace News, Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

DISTRICT NURSE, retiring, wishes to rent, or buy (if reasonable) cottage, village by sea, must leave present house to successor. Write Box 144.

COVENTRY PPU. Rummage sale, March 18. Goods to Lee, 3 South Avenue.

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QUAKERISM Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

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A GROUP of parents wishing to maintain an independent school on co-operative lines requires teachers for juniors, also languages, history and geography; living accommodation available. Box 143.

PEACE WORK is available for all volunteers at Peace News office. Day time and every Wednesday evening we shall be grateful for help. Write, phone, or just drop in, to Peace News (STAMFORD HILL 2262) 3 Blackstock Road (above Fish and Cook, Stationers), Finsbury Park, N.4 (one minute from station).

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MISCELLANEOUS

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRL, Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS urgently needed at Peace News office. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, up to 9.30 p.m. Wednesday evening. No special experience necessary. 1 minute Finsbury Park Station, 3 Blackstock Road (above Fish and Cook, stationers), N.4—or phone STAMford Hill 2262-4.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

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Note to Newsagent—PEACE NEWS is published weekly as a national newspaper at the retail price of 3d. It is obtainable by your wholesaler at the usual rates from the Publishers, at 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

Up and Doing!

THE PN CAMPAIGN

IT is a good augury for peace that the growing vitality of pacifists and peace societies demands a larger PEACE NEWS.

Twenty-four pages would not meet the need! But as the Editor explains on page two, eight a week will make it possible to serve pacifism and world unity in a far more effective way.

To continue the eight-page PN we must increase sales by 25 per cent. in the next six months. We believe that this can be done and see good prospects of new readers in the following directions:

- Through the many peace societies lacking weekly papers whose activities are regularly reported in PN.
- Among Christian and humanitarian people who are increasingly disturbed by the implications of H-bomb war.
- Among pacifists outside Britain who find encouragement and hope in the knowledge, which PN brings, of a world-wide fellowship.
- To people everywhere who may be attracted by its challenging slogans on newspapers' counters; when sold at meetings; pushed in their letter-boxes; left in their trains; displayed in their libraries and brought to their attention in every conceivable way.

An international effort to boost the paper will commence at the beginning of May. Joint pacifist meetings will be organised in the big towns of this country, and special new publicity material issued. We anticipate, too, the support of pacifist societies overseas.

PN directors, representative of all sections of the pacifist movement, have generously agreed to address our gatherings. Many will have the opportunity of hearing such distinguished pacifists as Dr. Alex Wood, Vera Brittain, Michael Tippett, Wilfred Wellock, Rev. Richard Lee, Eric Tucker, Frank Dawtry, Sybil Morrison and the others who direct the paper's policy and work. The Editor, Bernard Boothroyd, and Assistant Editor, Hugh Brock, and I also hope to meet many of you to explain the great opportunities confronting us and how, with your help, they can be met.

Further details will be given week by week. Write to tell me what you will do to help.

HARRY MISTER

GHENT CONFERENCE

A report of the Ghent Conference to plan the Peoples' World Constituent Assembly will appear next week.

FoR leaflet tops 20,000

WITHIN five days of its publication, over 20,000 copies of the Fellowship of Reconciliation's statement on conscription were distributed. It was published in full in Peace News on Feb. 3.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

F.A.U. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

STEEP, PETERSFIELD, HANTS.
OFFERS young religious and humanitarian pacifists constructive service with its small international membership, undertaking agricultural, reconstructional and other manual work in England and abroad.

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Letters to the Editor

To fast for peace

I HAVE heard with thankfulness of the efforts being made by PPU members and other pacifists in Britain to awaken men's conscience with regard to the H-bomb. I want to tell you about a plan which is developing here in the United States which arose out of a Peacemakers conference held in New York recently.

A group—at present numbering about 12 to 14 people and including A. J. Muste and Bayard Rustin—has decided to observe a seven-day fast during the week before Easter Sunday, in Washington, DC, in an attempt to pierce the crust of apathy and fear. We shall live together during that time, spending part of each day in prayer and quiet, and will seek for interviews with national leaders of different groups—the Government, the churches, scientists, unions, and also the Russian Embassy. At the same time approaches will be made to the general public, through meetings and demonstrations.

We shall ask people to face the moral issues involved in the atomic arms race, and urge the total abandonment of the war method.

The Catholic Worker group has agreed to be a co-sponsor, and we expect others to join us as the plan develops, including FoR members.

Perhaps some readers of Peace News will be led to unite with us in some way during that week.

WINIFRED RAWLINGS

2013 Fifth Avenue,
New York 35, NY.

Pacifists and World Govt.

SHOULD the pacifist sanction the use of physical force to uphold the law? Mr. Hugh Lustig in your February 3 issue says a vigorous "No!" But I must protest.

It is all very well for Mr. Lustig and his friends to debate whether they should refuse the protection of the law, but, as history testifies, human society from the earliest times has evolved by means of the application of common law.

As a corollary of his standpoint, Mr. Lustig deprecates World Government. In doing so he jettisons what many of us (who are, I must avow, not strictly pacifist) regard as the only practical remedy of war. We in the World Government movement, who hate war and all it means with as great a vehemence as any pacifist, desperately want the support of all friends of peace. Yet pacifists as a body ridiculously cold-shoulder us.

In this disaster-stricken twentieth century we are again living in a time of extreme crisis. Another war will almost certainly overtake us within the next decade or two if we continue to follow the path of national sovereignty or multi-national sovereignty. The elimination of war demands nothing short of a common universal sovereignty, having the power to enact and enforce world law.

We believers in World Government have basically much in common with pacifists, and we ought not to have to ask in vain for their co-operation. Are pacifists going to be again content to beat piteously against war even as war engulfs us? Or are they going to unite realistically with us in the World Government movement and take such positive action as will contribute substantially to the establishment of world peace.

G. I. BENNETT

259 Broad Lane,
Bramley, Leeds.

Conscription and his vote

I SUPPORT the letter from my old friend and comrade Philip Millwood (PN March 3).

Some days before the General Election I had a call from a Labour canvasser. When I raised the conscription issue, he launched out into a whole-hearted and thorough-going justification and glorification of compulsory military service. Army life, he declared, was a fine thing for a young fellow—it took him from slouching around the streets, gave him good discipline, and "made

a man" of him. He saw no objection whatever to conscription, and, indeed, he made it quite clear that he regarded a soldier's life as the "lordliest life on earth." When my visitor had gone, I was left reflecting, regretfully and ruefully, on the long road the Labour Party had travelled, and the dubious direction of that road, since the days of Keir Hardie who said "Conscription is the badge of the slave."

HERBERT BRYAN

46 Bedford Row, W.C.1.

Do farm-hands vote Tory?

MAY I assure Douglas Rogers that the farm-labourer does not necessarily vote Conservative, though he does "touch his cap" when ushered into the polling-booth by his boss. The farm-labourer has suffered too much in the past to be led up the garden-path, though he may have learned the art of camouflage from his "betters."

Judging from this neighbourhood, which is largely agricultural, the most bitter opponents of the Labour Party fall into two groups (apart from the die-hards who matter very little): (1) the average family man who hates conscription and thinks (however erroneously) that the Conservatives will adopt another policy; (2) the "small" business man who had only two alternatives after the war—either to go into a factory or open a shop. Had the Labour Party been far-seeing enough to provide an outlet for this section of the population, I do not think it would have been in its present predicament.

D. A. JAMESON

Little Marlow,

Bucks.

Be above party politics

AMONG my customers when selling PN the other day, was a young man who told me that at one time he had been a regular reader of our paper, but he had ceased to buy it "because I am an ardent Liberal and I could not stomach the Left Wing bias of the paper..."

If we are to enjoy a lasting peace Socialists, Liberals, atheists, monarchists, republicans, teetotalers, boozers and what have you, must work together to achieve it. "United we stand, divided we fall."

GRANVILLE MARSH

64, Beach Road,
Litherland, Liverpool, 21.

PROMISE OF BRILLIANT FUTURE

THOSE who have a special interest in musicians who are also pacifists should have heard John Moores' recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 2. His playing of the "Hammerklavier" Sonata and Schubert's "Wanderer" Fantasy were a delight to all present.

He played as though born to it and his superb execution, together with his grasp of noble proportions promise a brilliant future (which should also reflect well on another pacifist, his teacher, Frank Merrick).

NEW PEACE POSTER

"We cannot imagine Jesus dropping a bomb! Can it be right to train young men to do so?" is the message on a new Friends Peace Committee poster, obtainable from Friends House, Euston Road, N.W.1. 4d. post free.

Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, March 15, 1940

A letter has been sent to the Times, over the signatures of Lord Ponsonby, Dr. Alex Wood and Stuart Morris, dealing with the suggestion that the Peace Pledge Union is becoming a cover for propaganda by Fascists and Communists, who are alleged to be penetrating the pacifist organisation.

"It would obviously be impossible," runs the letter, "in the case of a membership that is increasing by something like a thousand a month to know whether any who join us are members of other organisations, and we have always accepted the names of any who are prepared to sign a pledge card."

"We can however, definitely assert that so far as the activities of the PPU and its policy are controlled, either locally through group-leaders or nationally through the National Council or Executive, the innuendo is completely false, and to a very large extent the same folk are in positions of responsibility today who were in the early days of the movement."

Just under 2,000 Londoners—and two Scotland Yard officers taking notes—heard "The Case for a Negotiated Peace" in the Queen's Hall on Saturday, when the PPU held the first of what it hopes will be a series of meetings on this subject in various parts of the country.

GLASTONBURY

Mount Avalon is beautifully situated. Ideal centre for excursions in one of the loveliest and most interesting parts of the West country. Appetising and healthy vegetarian meals. Friendly welcome, comfortable beds. Reasonable charges. S.A.E. for brochure.

Arthur Mann, Mount Avalon,
Glastonbury

Sybil Morrison's

CAMPAIGN COLUMN

Then indecision brings its own delays,
And days are lost lamenting o'er lost days,
Are you in earnest? seize this very minute—
What you can do, or dream you can,
Begin it,
Boldness has genius, power, and magic
in it.

—Goethe, "Faust."

LAST week as I stood outside the Kingsway Hall on International Women's Day, giving away leaflets advertising the Central Hall meeting on Monday, March 27, I watched with some degree of fascination the great stream of women who were converging on the hall; they were coming in twos and threes from across the road up from Aldwych, down from the Euston Road, and it was as much as two of us could do to give each one a leaflet as they entered.

It is, of course, an annual event for women's organisations, and as such might be expected to become stale, yet, on the contrary each year seems to bring fresh faces and renewed enthusiasm. As I inserted my leaflets into the hands of the hurrying audience, I naturally thought about the coming PPU meeting in the Central Hall, and I felt the kind of sinking anxiety which probably all responsible organisers know.

Supposing no one comes! Supposing on the day all these important speakers face only a few hundreds in a hall designed to hold thousands! What have I left undone? What more can I do? These are quite ordinary thoughts for an organiser, and particularly at present, when there are so many attractions and distractions to keep the public away from meetings.

In the early days of the PPU when Dick Sheppard's pledge first caught the imagination of young people in this country, and the movement he founded attracted to it so many people with important names in their own walks of life, it was easy to fill even the Albert Hall by merely announcing that Dick Sheppard and some of his sponsors would be there. Because those days belong now to the "lost days" of the past, it is important for every member of Dick Sheppard's pacifist movement to accept a measure of responsibility for the success of a meeting just as he did, and seize each opportunity as it comes.

Why public meetings?

The Central Hall meeting is a great opportunity for pacifists to begin again, as all nature does each year in spring-time, the work which is theirs.

It is common now-a-days to despise what has come to be known as "crowd psychology," but it is a great mistake to imagine that the emotions of a crowd are necessarily false emotions. It is good for an individual, especially a pacifist, who stands so much alone, sometimes to feel at one with a great crowd. The rising of passion and emotion on such an occasion is no cause for shame or regret, on the contrary it should be held and crystallised into action, and give strength for the continued struggle.

Even if no new member joins, a great crowded meeting may well mean fresh life to a Movement, and it is not only for the conversion of the public that we meet at the Central Hall on Monday week. It is so easy to make it an excuse for not attending a meeting that, after all, it is the conversion of the public that matters, and therefore there is no need for pacifists to attend.

We meet to gain fresh inspiration, to renew our faith, to join hands in the work we still have to do, and moreover, we meet to show those who do come from the non-pacifist public, the strength and meaning of the pacifist movement. The impression made at this moment in history upon a wavering public opinion is of paramount importance, and the responsibility to make it, and to secure that it is a lasting impression, rests upon every one of us.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION

CENTRAL HALL, Westminster, S.W.1
MONDAY, 27th MARCH,
8 p.m.

Chairman:

VERA BRITTAIN

supported by

RHYS DAVIES, MP

EMRYS HUGHES, MP

LEAH MANNING

STUART MORRIS

SYBIL MORRISON

MICHAEL TIPPETT

Organ 7.30
Buffet and Bookstall 6.30. Some reserved 2s. 6d.
Admission Free.

PEACE PLEDGE UNION
6 Endaleigh Street, W.C.1.

WAR — WE SAY NO

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